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Second Thoughts on Gary Powers

Readers
Opinions

Editor Plain Dealer—Sir: An editorial March 7 begins: "U-2 Pilot Francis Gary Powers is not precisely a national hero, but it should cheer the entire nation to know that after an exhaustive investigation the Central Intelligence Agency is of the opinion that Powers lived up to the terms of his contract and his obligations as an American."

This is one American that is not cheered up in the least by this exercise in literary ambiguity. Powers may be as technically guiltless as the Congressional hearing indicates. In this case, the CIA blundered to the extent of picking the wrong person for a job, of extreme selectivity and importance to this country, such as this one. On the other hand, it may be attempting to cover up at least in part a mistake in the selecting of Powers by withholding certain information. This latter choice is certainly not out of the realm of possibility. It is, after all a secret organization, secret at least to the Americans, but not too difficult apparently for the Communists to figure out.

The type of American that should have carried out the job Powers had would not have needed a "contract" to know what his obligation as an American was.

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